IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1-25 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a catalog of electronic programming information containing information for at least one program, said information including a start time and an end time of said at least one program, said method comprising:

obtaining from said at least one program a first value representing characteristics data of said at least one program at said start time; and

storing said first value in said catalog; and

obtaining from said at least one program a second value representing characteristics data of said at least one program at said end time; and

storing said second value ~~program~~ in said catalog;

when a user selects said at least one program for a future use by a device with a program input, copying said first value and said second value to said device ;

comparing said first value and said second value to corresponding values obtained from said program input to determine a start and stop time for said use.

2.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one program is a carried by a video signal source.

3.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said use for said at least one program includes said device displaying said at least one program.

4.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said use for said at least one program includes said device recording said at least one program.

5.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of said first value and said second value representing characteristics data gathered from said at least one program is a signature generated by using a combination of features from a frame of said at least one program.

6.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of said first value and said second value representing characteristics data gathered from said at least one program is a color histogram generated from a frame of said at least one program.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of said first value and said second value representing characteristics data gathered from said at least one program is generated from closed captioning data gathered from a frame of said at least one program.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of said first value and said second value representing characteristics data gathered from said at least one program is generated from ~~the~~ an audio portion from one or more frames of said at least one program.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of said first value and said second value representing characteristics data gathered from said at least one program is a signature generated for a block of discrete cosine values for a frame.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of said first value and said second value representing

characteristics data gathered from said at least one program is obtained from low level features.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a catalog of electronic programming information containing information for at least one program, said information including a start time and an end time of said at least one program, said method comprising:

obtaining from said at least one program a first value representing characteristics data of an ending of a program immediately preceding said at least one program; and

storing said first value in said catalog; and

obtaining from said at least one program a second value representing characteristics data of said at least one program at said end time; and

storing said second value ~~program~~ in said catalog;

when a user selects said at least one program for a future use by a device with a program input, copying said first value and said second value to said device ;

comparing said first value and said second value to corresponding values obtained from said program input to determine a start and stop time for said use.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, where said at least one program is carried by a video signal source.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein said use for said at least one program includes said device displaying said at least one program.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein said use for said at least one program includes said device recording said at least one program.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein at least one of said first value and said second value representing characteristics data gathered from said at least one program is a signature generated by using a combination of features from a frame of said at least one program.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein at least one of said first value and said second value representing characteristics data gathered from said at least one program is a

color histogram generated from a frame of said at least one program.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein at least one of said first value and said second value representing characteristics data gathered from said at least one program is generated from closed captioning data gathered from a frame of said at least one program.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein at least one of said first value and said second value representing characteristics data gathered from said at least one program is generated from the audio portion from one or more frames of said at least one program.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein at least one of said first value and said second value representing characteristics of said DCT blocks is a signature generated for a block of DCT values for a frame.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein at least one of said first value and said second value representing

characteristics data gathered from said at least one program is obtained from low level features.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a catalog of electronic programming information containing information for ~~at least one~~ a second program and a first program which immediately temporarily precedes said second program, said information including a start time and an end time of said ~~at least one~~ second program and ~~the~~ an ending time for ~~an immediately temporarily preceding~~ said first program, said method comprising:

obtaining from said first program a first value representing first characteristics data of ~~an ending of a~~ said first program at said ending time ~~immediately preceding said at least one program~~; and

storing said first value in said catalog; and

obtaining from said second program a second value representing second characteristics data of said ~~at least one~~ second program at said start time; and

storing said second value ~~program~~ in said catalog;

when a user selects said ~~at least one~~ second program for a future use by a device with a program input, copying said first value and said second value to said device;

comparing said first value to a corresponding value obtained from said program input to determine ~~a~~ said ending time ~~when of~~ said ~~immediately temporarily preceding~~ first program ~~ends~~;

next comparing said second value to corresponding value obtained from said program input to determine time for said use to begin.

22. (Currently Amended) A system for processing a catalog of electronic programming information, in which said catalog contains information for a program, wherein a start time and end time of said program is stored, in which said program is represented by ~~characteristics~~ characteristic data gathered from said program, said system comprising:

a video signal source of said program; and

a processor operatively coupled to said video signal source, said processor coupled to an electronic programming guide, and coupled to a user selection device, and logic output means; said processor configured to:

obtain a user programming selection from said user selection device; and

obtain said characteristic data, program channel selection, and ~~program~~ said start time and said end time from ~~said electronic programming guide containing~~ said catalog; and

monitor said video signal source at time proximal to said ~~program~~ start time, comparing said characteristic data with complimentary characteristic data generated from said video signal source; and

(a) when said characteristic data obtained from said catalog is equivalent to said complimentary characteristic data generated from said video signal source, set said logic output means to TRUE, and stop performing said comparison; or

(b) otherwise set said logic output means to FALSE and continue performing said comparison on said video signal source.

23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 22, ~~further comprising~~ wherein said processor is further configured to:

monitor said video signal source at time proximal to said ~~program~~ end time, comparing said characteristic data obtained from said catalog with said complimentary characteristic data generated from video signal source; and

(a) when said characteristic data obtained from said catalog is equivalent to said complimentary characteristic data

generated from said video signal source, set said logic output means to FALSE, and stop performing said comparison; or

(b) otherwise set said logic output means to TRUE and continue performing said comparison on said video signal source.

24. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 22, wherein said processor is further operatively connected to a device for further processing said program, wherein a TRUE value for said logic output means causes said processor to turn on said device to ~~the~~ a channel of said program.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 24, further comprising that a FALSE value of said logic output means causes said processor to turn off said device ~~for further processing~~.